

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**JANUARY 7, 2005**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 7, 2005, **MICHAEL JOSEPH WILLEY**, age 42, of Metropolis, Illinois, was charged by the United States Attorney in a Criminal Complaint in United States District Court with two counts involving child pornography. Count 1 charged that on November 17, 2004, WILLEY did knowingly transport and ship in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer, a visual depiction involving the use of a minor under the age of eighteen engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Count 2 charged that on or about January 6, 2005, WILLEY did knowingly possess material that contains images of child pornography that has been mailed, or shipped or transported in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer.

WILLEY was arrested on January 7, 2005 and is being held in custody pending his initial appearance in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois, on January 10, 2005, at 11:30 a.m.

A Criminal Complaint contains charges filed against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of all charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

If convicted of Count 1, WILLEY faces from 5-20 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, and up to 4 years of supervised release. If convicted of Count 2, WILLEY faces up to 15 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, and up to 4 years of supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Metropolis Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.